

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 2 and 6 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus having a plurality of paper feed units capable of setting index sheets, comprising:

a storage section which stores paper size information, type information, and index number information indicating the number of index sheets per set of paper ~~sheet~~ sheets set in each paper unit in a case where index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed units; and

a control section which performs processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit to be used from a first paper feed unit to a second paper feed unit and does not perform processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit from the first paper feed unit to a third paper feed unit in a case where ~~index paper~~ sheets are set in the first paper feed unit are run out and all of the elements a predetermined condition are satisfied,

wherein the predetermined condition is that the size information, ~~the type information,~~ and ~~the~~ index number information of the first paper feed unit coincide with those of the second paper feed unit, and ~~wherein~~ at least one of the size information, type information, and ~~the~~ index number information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit in a case where the type information of the first paper feed unit indicates an index sheet, and

the size information and type information of the first paper feed unit coincide with those of the second paper feed unit; and at least one of the size information and type information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit in a case where the type information of the first paper feed unit does not indicate an index sheet.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage section stores index shape information indicating a shape of the index portion of the paper sheet set in the paper feed units,

wherein the index shape information of the first paper feed unit coincides with that of the second paper feed unit, and

wherein at least one of the size information, ~~the~~ index number information, and ~~the~~ index shape information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises a unit change setting section which determines whether to automatically enable paper feed unit change processing for each of the plurality of paper feed units and sets a unit change setting in accordance with ~~the determined result a~~ predetermined condition, and

wherein the predetermined condition is that the unit change setting section sets the unit change setting to automatically enable change processing for the second paper feed unit.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a plurality of paper feed unit capable of setting index sheets, comprising:

a storage step of storing paper size information, type information, and index number information indicating the number of index sheets per set paper sheet set in each paper feed unit in a case where the index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed units; and

a control step of performing processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit to be used from a first paper feed unit to a second paper feed unit and does not perform processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit from the first paper feed unit to a third paper feed unit in a case where index paper sheets set in the first paper feed unit are run out and all of the elements of a predetermined condition are satisfied,

wherein the predetermined condition is that the size information, type information, and ~~the~~ index number information of the first paper feed unit coincide with those of the second paper feed unit, and ~~wherein~~ at least one of the size information, type information, and ~~the~~ index number information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit in a case where the type information of the first paper feed unit indicates an index sheet, and

the size information and type information of the first paper feed unit coincide with those of the second paper feed unit; and at least one of the size information and type information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit in a

case where the type information of the first paper feed unit does not indicate an index sheet.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said storage section stores index shape information indicating a shape of the index portion of the paper sheet set in the paper feed units,

wherein the index shape information of the first paper feed unit coincides with that of the second paper feed unit, and

wherein at least one of the size information, ~~the~~ index number information, and ~~the~~ index shape information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the control method further comprises a unit change setting step of determining whether to automatically enable paper feed unit change processing for each of the plurality of paper feed units and sets a unit change setting in accordance with ~~the determination result~~ a predetermined condition, and

wherein the predetermined condition is that the unit change setting section sets the unit change setting to automatically enable change processing for the second paper feed unit.